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Why The U. S. President Must Not Wear Uniform

BY
WOODROW WILSON
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

WITH A PEN PORTRAIT OF THE PRESIDENT
BY GUIDO BRUNO

PRIVATELY PRINTED
NEW YORK, 1918

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By Guido Bruno

Why "Bruno's Bohemia" For September Omitted the Cover Design

WE intended to publish on the cover of our September issue an etching of President Wilson by Mr. Wall. The etching shows President Wilson in United States uniform. Mr. Wall conceived his inspiration during an address delivered by President Wilson before the United States Spanish War Veterans at a convention held in Atlantic City in 1912, when Mr. Wilson was Governor of New Jersey. In this speech, the President emphasized that he had never been a soldier or had any military training, but that he was nevertheless a fighter in the cause of righteousness. With this in mind, and in this great period of the world's history, the President being the Commander-in-Chief of our civil and armed forces, Mr. Wall did not think it inappropriate to picture him in military fashion.

President Wilson's letter which we are reprinting on the cover page of our September issue is sufficient explanation why we are abstaining from publishing the portrait. No greater or more significant words could have been spoken by the Supreme Chief of our armed forces at this time than are set down in his letter.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

8 July, 1918.

My dear Mr. Wall:

I warmly and sincerely appreciate the sentiment which led you to make the etching of which you were kind enough to send me a copy, but I feel bound, in replying to your letter of June seventeenth, which was laid before me only the other day, to say that there is a sense in which putting me in uniform violates a very fundamental principle of our institutions, namely, that the military power is subordinate to the civil. The framers of the Constitution, of course, realized that the President would seldom be a soldier and their idea in making him the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States was that the armed forces of the country must be the instruments of the authority by which policy was determined. It is for that reason that we can so truly say that our organization is in no sense and can in no sense be militaristic.

I do not think this is a mere formal scruple on my part. I believe it goes to the root of things, and I am sure I may thus candidly express it to you without creating the impression that I do not fully appreciate the motive and the idea of your etching, by which I am very much complimented.

Sincerely yours,
WOODROW WILSON.

Woodrow Wilson: A Portrait

A student. A teacher.

The past lives in the present. History and life are closely linked.

A quiet observer of life, who reads, who listens, who lends his ear to every voice. He weighs his own observations against the theories of a world, against the world's most brilliant minds. Adverse camps inside the nation send their urging advisers . . . but his decision is always his own.

In the crazy-quilt of American history are strong red threads with which were stitched together the patches of all nations. Strong stitches they are, sewn by firm confident hands. Faith, humanity, self-reliance—sublime forces guided these hands. Patches wear out. Others can be had for the asking, so long as there is thread to sew them, so long as there are strong hands to guide the needle.

Only a man of convictions and vision can see the light through the night.

In 1776 colonies of settlers were set free.

A nation is born in 1917.

Romance, horror, love, pain, sacrifice, tears and sorrow hover over the cradle.

One man has to speak for one hundred millions. One man has to shoulder the responsibility.

Freedom for the oppressed!

Balm for the hurt.

Justice!

And then Peace on Earth.

Joy for the universe; victory for our nation.

A teacher. A student.

The functions of a nation are outlined in the history of its past. The ideals of the past are safe guardians for an ideal future.

The humanity of a teacher, the vision of a statesman, the determination of a man.

The Leader of his Nation.

August, 1918.

Guido Bruno.

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